

Contact



Magazine for and about members of the 349th Air Mobility Wing
Vol. 16, No. 9

October 1998

Keiko returns home with the help of Travis KC-10 crew

See story, page 4
See photo's, page 6-7

Commanders'

by Col. Gerald A. Black
Commander, 349th Air Mobility Wing

CORNER

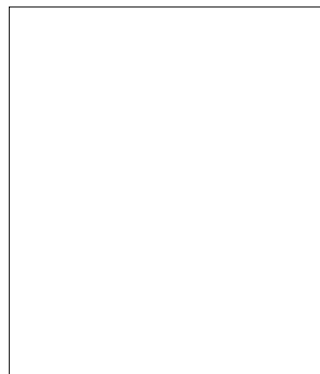
Family, Reserves and civilian job must have balance

I have often spoken about family, civilian jobs, and the Reserve and how these three aspects of our lives must continue to be kept in balance. Each is connected to the other two and each carries a great impact on every member of the 349th Air Mobility Wing.

When we look at the family, I recognize that there are always important family activities. I realize it's not easy to share a spouse, son or daughter, parent or significant other with the Air Force Reserve on weekends and holidays.

The two-week annual tours don't always come at the best time. And although it goes without saying that the Reserves can be a great second job, or for some of you, a great full-time job, this can also get in the way of family commitments if we are not careful.

Many of you recently spent two-week rotations in the desert away from your family and friends. As your commander, I want to commend you on your performance and reiterate that each of you had a tremendous impact on



America's commitments in that part of the world. But I also recognize that family and civilian jobs were impacted.

Without the essential ingredient in a reservist's career of a supportive family and employer, the mission could not be accomplished.

I want to thank all Reservists, their families, and civilian employers for helping maintain the balance that is needed for the 349th AMW to meet mission requirements as we take on new responsibilities in the future. ➔

Anniversary of Seamless Total Force

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — "Last year at this time, we were darn close to shooting at each other," Deputy Defense Secretary John Hamre said Sept. 4 to assembled active and reserve component leaders. "We were too preoccupied with the fight [among ourselves] and took our eyes off the prize."

Hamre's remarks were part of a Pentagon ceremony marking the first anniversary of Defense Secretary William S. Cohen's "Seamless Total Force" memorandum. The memo recognized DoD's increasing reliance on reserve forces following the end of the Cold War.

Cohen directed active and reserve component leaders to remove structural and cultural barriers that reduce readiness and bar interoperability.

Hamre said the memo forced Pentagon leaders to step back, look at basic principles and open up lines of communication. "[The memo] has been indispensable to the progress we have made in the last year," he said.

As signs of progress toward eliminating structural barriers, Hamre pointed to the Army's planning six National Guard enhanced readiness brigades and establishment of Guard teams to combat chemical and biological weapon attacks on the United States.

DoD got rid of a large cultural barrier when the Total Force green identity card replaced the red reserve forces card, he noted.

"The reserve [forces] are on duty around the world, all the time," said Charles Cragin, principal deputy undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness. "When I go to Bosnia and meet with the troops, you can't tell the difference between active and reserve. They are there to do a job, and all of them do it well."

"In the field, active duty personnel recognize that without the reserve, the military could not accomplish its missions," he said.

Cragin said the fiscal environment soured relations between the active and reserve components. In a time of smaller budgets, reserve leaders thought their concerns were ignored by active duty leaders, he said. Getting reserve leaders into the budgeting process early has helped alleviate these fears. The Cohen memo also pledged "to provide the resources needed to accomplish assigned missions."

"But this is not 'solved'," Cragin said. "This is a process we have to manage every day. The [Cohen] memo recognizes this and calls on all leaders to take ownership of the Total Force." ➔

CONTACT

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Cover photo:

Keiko, a killer whale and star of "Free Willy," looks on as photographers snap hundreds of photographs at the Newport Ore. Aquarium Sept. 9. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Steven O. Ontiveros)

CALIFORNIA AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION NAMES 349TH RESERVE UNIT OF YEAR

The 349th Air Mobility Wing was named Air Force Reserve Unit of the Year for its participation in Phoenix Scorpion II. Based on real world involvement, credit was received for a scheduled ORI inspection.



CALIFORNIA AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION NAMES SENIOR NCO OF YEAR

Master Sgt. Paul G. McCullough, first sergeant, 349th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, was named Senior NCO of the year for his distinguished service as noncommissioned officer in charge of the Honor Guard. He also augmented the Presidential Honor Guard.

Keiko goes home with help from KC-10 rainbow crew

By Staff Sgt. Shayne Sewell

An Air Force C-17 crew from Charleston Air Force Base, S.C., flew Keiko, a killer whale and star of "Free Willy," on a nonstop flight to Vestmannaeyjar, Iceland, Sept. 9.

It would not have been a nonstop flight, however, without the Travis "rainbow" KC-10 crew who refueled the C-17 Globemaster III.

Members who volunteered to be a part of this historical Air Force event included, Capt. Mark Casto, aircraft commander, 70th Air Refueling Squadron; 1st Lt. Kathryn Skinner, pilot, 70th ARS; Capt. Greg Robertson, pilot, 6th ARS; Senior Master Sgt. Gary Plain, boom operator, 79th ARS; Master Sgt. Terry Monges, boom operator, 70th ARS; and Master Sgt. Jim Day, flight engineer, from the 9th ARS.

After takeoff, Casto got confirmation that the upload of Keiko in Newport, Ore., went well. "The whale is on the plane. We're on our way," announced Casto as the KC-10 left Travis.

Two hours into the flight, Senior Master Sgt. Plain made contact with the C-17 right on schedule, despite heavy clouds. The KC-10 unloaded 142,000 pounds of fuel in 40 minutes. "That's about 22,000 gallons," said Plain. "Techni-

cally, the refueling went great, but the weather could have been better," he said.

Master Sgt. Monges took over the refueling about half way through and finished off the mission. "This is one of the highlights of my 17-year career," said Monges, who rented "Free Willy," before the trip to "see what the whale was all about."

Capt. Casto said, "It is an honor to be the guy in charge of this kind of mission. It shows the Air Force can do stuff that people, especially kids, can relate to. I have kids and they really tuned in to what I was doing when I told them we were refueling the plane that Free Willy is on."

1st Lt. Skinner and Capt. Robertson swapped the right seat to take turns flying the mission. "I never did a mission like this before, it's exciting," said Skinner.

"We don't usually fly with a mixed crew, so we're excited to be a part of this," said Robertson.

Apparently, Keiko handled the 8-hour flight very well and is swimming and eating in his new 3.2-million-gallon-floating pen off the coast of Iceland near the Westman Islands. For pictures see pages 6-7. ➔

Aerial Port Squadron wins AMC award

By Staff Sgt. Shayne Sewell

The 82nd Aerial Port Squadron won the 1997 Outstanding Air Mobility Command Air Reserve Component Aerial Port Unit of the Year for special operations, exercises, and projects in which the unit participated. They were nominated by the 60th Aerial Port Squadron here.

Criteria for the award includes adaptability of air reserve component personnel to accomplish unusual or difficult assignments and outstanding areas of performance and accomplishments.

The 82nd APS participated in Phoenix Pace 1997 and coordinated the humanitarian airlift of winter clothing and blankets to the Cheyenne River Sioux Indian Reservation at Eagle Butte, S.D. They downloaded trucks, prepared humanitarian cargo for airlift, and loaded two C-141 aircraft with more than 20 tons of critical emergency relief for members of the reservation.

Some other unusual or difficult assignments include developing and implementing the successful 'Partners in the Port' program which changed the concept of reserve augmentation from just annual tours and weekends to providing reserve personnel during weekdays to the active duty aerial port squadron.

One of the outstanding areas of performance and accomplishments included the creation of the Materials Handling Equipment University where members receive vehicle proficiency training.

Another accomplishment the 82nd APS is being recognized for is assisting with the loading of two Drug Enforcement Agency helicopters aboard a C-5 Galaxy and deploying three reserve personnel to load and unload the helicopters at various South American locations.

The unit also supplied staffing for a fund-raising program to donate money to the Fisher House, a facility where family members of critically ill patients can stay, free of charge. ➔

Aerial porters experience ORI 2000 first-hand

By Staff Sgt. Shayne Sewell

Members from the 55th Aerial Port Squadron spent six days with the 141st Air Refueling Wing at Fairchild Air Force Base, Wash., to participate in an Operational Readiness Inspection. The 349th Air Mobility Wing reservists deployed, as if it were real world, to participate with the KC-135 Air National Guard unit under the new ORI 2000 concept.

During real world exercises or simulated exercises the aerial porters are "required to deploy with weapons," said Master Sgt. Lloyd A. Smith, transportation manager, 55th APS. "They will practice the ability to operate and survive, also known as ATSO, as well as other required training," said Smith.

"The single most difficult task in this deployment was the preparation," said Maj. Gale Weller, commander, 55th APS. "Under the ORI 2000 concept, some deployments occur at the lower unit level. This

was our case. We are supporting a National Guard Air Refueling Wing in need of Aerial Port support. We now have a keener appreciation for how much work goes into the deployment coordination and preparation of an ORI," said Weller.

"Under the new ORI 2000 concept, the deployments are half of what they used to be," said Maj. Darrell G. Young, chief, wing plans, 349th AMW.

According to information contained in The Inspector General Brief, January-February 1998 issue, provided by Maj. Weller, Air Mobility Command implemented the new ORI 2000 concept Oct. 1, 1997. The new concept uses personnel more productively, cuts costs and makes more aircraft available for AMC and its customers.

The inspections will still have four major graded areas: initial response, employment, mission support, and ability to survive and operate. The five-level rating scale of outstanding, excellent, satisfactory, marginal, and unsatisfactory will still be used to grade inspections.

However, instead of grading employment missions flown from a deployed location during a two to four-day period during the inspection, the units' mission execution grade will be based on their day-to-day contribution to AMC's mission. A benefit to giving units credit for day-to-day operations and real-world missions will be fewer aircraft required at the forward operating locations during the inspections.

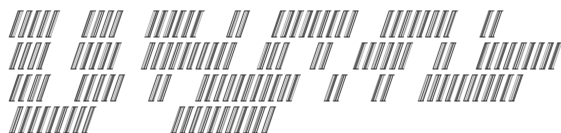
The units will still demonstrate their ability to generate and deploy aircraft and support forces from home stations during initial response. According to Maj. Weller, under this new concept, units will use a local training area at their base called 'Base X' as the forward operating location. This will allow units to function with smaller support staffs and will save funds.

Another aspect of the ORI 2000 concept is a philosophical shift in the way ATSO training is evaluated. The exercise will occur as it did in the past except that after an attack there will be a short critique period where units will be expected to "fine tune" their efforts based on the inspector general input.

"ORI 2000 will allow our command to continually and effectively evaluate unit readiness while still providing world-class support to our air mobility customers," said Maj. John C. Lucas, director, Headquarters AMC inspector general office. ✈



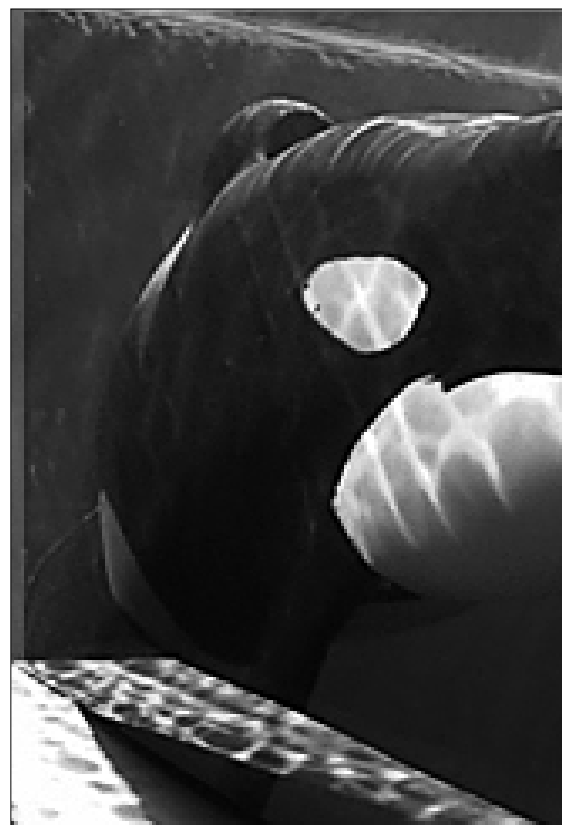
Photo by Capt. Tania Daniels



Operation Keiko Lift: KC-10 cr



The aquarium Keiko lived in since 1996 in Newport, Ore.



Keiko prepares for the airlift home



Senior Master Sgt. Gary Plain, boom operator, 79th ARS, unloads fuel onto the C-17 carrying Keiko



A 60K Tunner used to load Keiko on the C-17 Globemaster III

crew refuels mission



to Iceland Sept. 9.



Keiko poses for the camera



*1st Lt. Kathryn Skinner, pilot, 70th ARS
prepares for take-off*



Keiko gets loaded onto the C-17

NEWS

AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND LOOKING FOR NEW SENIOR ENLISTED ADVISOR

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. – Air Force Reserve Command is looking for candidates to apply for the command's senior enlisted advisor position.

Applications for the three-year, extended active-duty tour must reach Headquarters AFRC by Oct. 15. The job starts Jan. 1.

The Reserve's senior enlisted advisor works for the AFRC commander, serving as a liaison between the commander, key staff members and the enlisted force. The command's highest ranking enlisted person communicates with the commander on problems, concerns, morale and attitudes of the enlisted force, and in turn ensures the commander's policies are known and understood by enlisted people.

Other requirements include frequent travel; daily contact with other Department of Defense agencies; and knowledge of Air Force and Reserve personnel programs, airmen career fields, and the mission and organization of the Air Force.

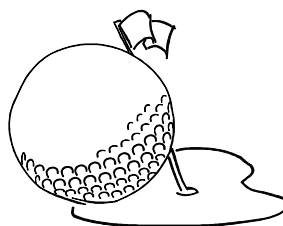
The assignment is open to unit reservists, individual mobilization augmentees, air reserve technicians and reservists in the Active Guard Reserve program. Candidates must be chief master sergeants.

Applications must be submitted on Air Force Form 125, Application for Extended Active Duty with the USAF. The applicant's immediate commander must sign the form with an endorsement by the wing commander for unit people, senior mobilization assistant for IMAs or directorate senior officer for AGR people. Military personnel flights have more details about application procedures.

TRAVIS FACILITIES

FACILITY	BLDG	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Bakery	650	0700-1800	0700-1700
Barber Shop	648	0830-2000	1000-1700
Bowling Center	214	0830-2400	1000-2300
Class Six	650	0900-1900	1100-1800
Commissary	680	0900-1700	0900-1700
Delta Breeze	400	1600-2100	1000-1330
Exercise Center	230	0800-1900	0800-1900
Fitness Center	434	1000-1700	1000-1700
*Food Court	648	1030-1800	1030-1700
Golf Course	2012	0700-Sunset	0700-Sunset
Hobby Shop	226	0900-1800	0800-1800
Library	436	CLOSED	1200-1800
Main Exchange	648	0900-2100	1000-1900
Mini Mall	650	1000-1700	1100-1700
Post Office	650	1000-1700	CLOSED
Service Station	170	0700-1730	0900-1630
Theater	437	Showtime	1900 daily

*Some eatery times vary



HOLE-IN-ONE CONTEST

The 12th annual USO Travis golf tournament tee's off Nov. 6 at 10 a.m. at the Cypress Lakes Golf Course, here, to raise money for the Travis USO. Check-in is at 10:00 a.m. followed by the putting contest at 10:15 a.m. At noon the shotgun start begins.

The entry fee is \$80 per person which includes greens fee, half cart and dinner at the new Delta Breeze Club at 5:30 p.m. There will be a special golfer's door prize drawing at dinner. Extra guests cost \$20. The sign-up deadline is November 3.

For more information call Cypress Lakes golf course at (707) 448-0263 or the USO at (707) 424-3316 or the USO Center Marine's Memorial Club, San Francisco at (415) 440-2110.

FEWER CAPTAINS SELECTED FOR PROMOTION

WASHINGTON – The Air Force Reserve selected fewer line officers for promotion to major than planned.

Results of the Fiscal Year 1999 Reserve major selection board were made public Aug. 28.

Air Force Reserve personnel officials in the Pentagon explained that the disparity between the number of majors needed by the Reserve and the number actually selected for promotion is the result of using a percentage of the total number eligible rather than a fixed number to meet a desired target.

The Reserve Officer Personnel Management Act, the public law that governs Reserve officer promotions, requires the secretary of the Air Force to set, prior to the convening of a promotion board, a maximum number of officers who can be selected for promotion. While the board does not have to use the full quota, it cannot exceed it.

According to Brig. Gen. Ralph S. Clem, deputy to the chief of Air Force Reserve, the board was conducted in full compliance with the law and followed the rules established by the Secretary of the Air Force.

"When I asked the question, I was told the FY99 major's board is legal and will stand. Regardless, we are exploring ways to lessen the impact on those who weren't selected. We're looking at several options, including holding a continuation board for two-time nonselectees and asking the secretary of the Air Force to approve additional quotas for the FY00 major's board that will convene early next year. We hope to have more on this soon," said Clem.



TRAVIS AFB TO HOST JOLDS II SEMINAR

REDESIGNED \$20 BILLS DEBUT

WASHINGTON – The government rolled out its new redesigned high-tech, tough-to-copy \$20 bill worldwide Sept. 24. Revamped \$50 and \$100 notes are already in circulation.

The \$20 bill, though, is key to thwarting counterfeiters, because it's the most widely circulated "big bill" and the most counterfeited, Secret Service spokeswoman Chaun Yount said. The Secret Service — the organization that guards the president — is the Treasury Department unit that oversees counterfeiting issues.

Both sides of the redesigned \$20 bills include numerous anti-counterfeiting measures, she said. Security features include embedded threads with micro-printing; a watermark; a large, off-center portrait of President Andrew Jackson with micro-printed words and hard-to-copy engraved details; the Federal Reserve seal; and color-shifting ink.

Yount said people are the first line of defense against counterfeiting. People need to be familiar with the new twenties because they'll be seeing a lot of them, she said. According to U.S. Treasury figures, the mints print \$20 notes in numbers second only to \$1 notes.

"We always have \$20 bills in our pocket, if we're lucky," she noted. "The general public pays little attention to the \$20 bill because it's the most commonly used note. Counterfeiters look at that as an opportunity. They like twenties because of their nice profit margin," said Yount. They have the highest face value that doesn't draw most people's attention, and passable fake twenties cost no more to make than fake fives and tens.

"People who are passing counterfeit money are looking for a high volume of cash," she said. "They target people who are rushed and don't take time to authenticate the bills." She said military people are not typical targets of counterfeiters.

However, the Treasury Department has been working with possible targets, such as the military exchange services, to train employees on the look and security features of the new \$20 bill.

The new notes will spread as fast as financial institutions order \$20 bills and circulate them. "So for some time, the old and new \$20 bills will circulate at the same time," she noted. For more information about redesigned U.S. currency, visit the Treasury Department Web sites at www.treas.gov or www.moneyfactory.com/currency/20.cfm.

Leadership, or lack of it, can be the defining factor in a junior officer's career. The Junior Officers Leadership Development Seminars (JOLDS) program, an Air Force Reserve initiative, offers the necessary tools to build effective leadership skills.

The 349th Air Mobility Wing will be hosting a JOLDS II seminar from April 23rd through April 25th next year. The JOLDS II seminar at Travis will be the second seminar for JOLDS II class 99A participants and the first for those who will be enrolled in the class of 99B.

Created in 1991 by a group of company grade officers, the seminars focus on leadership, team building, communication, problem solving, conflict resolution, management and personal growth.

Today, JOLDS consists of three types of leadership programs: JOLDS, JOLDS II, and International JOLDS. The first program is a "regular" JOLDS. This consists of 2 ½ days of training, hosted by an Air Force Reserve Command unit and is customized to focus on specific aspects of leadership, teambuilding, problem solving, management and/or personal growth.

The second type, JOLDS II, is a six-month, structured, reserve leadership training program developed to provide junior officers with improved performance, confidence and preparation to assume increasing responsibilities within the chain of command.

A vital part of this program is the participation of senior leaders who contribute as facilitators, as well as presenters, creating a positive environment for students. The curriculum for JOLDS II consists of three separate JOLDS seminars. It includes a Phase I (4-day seminar) on military officership and military leadership followed by an elective "regular" JOLDS, and concluding with a Phase II (4-day seminar). The JOLDS II program also includes a home/unit study program that requires a personal mentorship program, self-development readings, development of a career plan and a written paper on a current Air Force issue.

The third type of JOLDS program is the International JOLDS. International JOLDS offers junior officers the opportunity to work and learn together as an international team in areas of leadership, teambuilding, cultural diversity, mobilization issues and military officership.

The opportunity to attend JOLDS programs is offered to all Reserve junior officers, 2nd Lieutenant through Captain. Wing commanders must nominate their candidates.

Medical experts address anthrax vaccine and pregnancy concerns

By Cynthia Minnick

Air Force Surgeon General's Office

Just mention vaccinating against anthrax and some people may imagine side effects without understanding the lifesaving benefits. This may be of particular concern for women who may plan to or become pregnant during their vaccination series.

Women can put their apprehension about anthrax vaccine to rest, assure medical and scientific experts. There really isn't a scientific or medical reason for anxiety about the vaccine.

Dr. Steve Ostroff, associate director for epidemiologic science in the National Center for Infectious Diseases, one of the components at the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, wants to ease concerns people may have about the anthrax vaccine.

"We know that anthrax vaccine doesn't hold any greater risks to the developing fetus than virtually any of the other bacterial vaccines," said Ostroff. "As far as (the CDC) is aware, there are no special risks associated with this vaccine if by chance it is given to someone who is pregnant."

That's because vaccines made from killed material tend to have a low incidence of side effects, according to Ostroff. "The anthrax vaccine doesn't include anything in it that's

'live.' There isn't a risk of getting the disease," he said.

However, just to be on the safe side, it is advised that women who are pregnant should not get any vaccinations, according to Ostroff.

"As a rule, we (CDC) recommend that women who are pregnant should not receive any vaccines that aren't essential during their time of pregnancy. It's based on prudence more than anything else, because there might be a risk that hasn't been recognized and the cautious course is to wait until the pregnancy is over," said Ostroff.

However, if a pregnant woman may be exposed to a disease, most experts agree that the best course might be to give her a vaccine rather than do nothing.

No specific studies have been done on pregnancy and the anthrax vaccine, admits Ostroff. But this is not unusual.

"With a lot of the vaccines, not just anthrax, and even with a lot of the common medications we use on a day-to-day basis, there haven't been studies that have specifically looked at their use in pregnancy," he said.

"So you'll see warning labels about their use during pregnancy. Not because there is a definite risk, but just because studies haven't been done on that specific population."

For more about anthrax, visit the Air Force website at <http://www.af.mil/current/anthrax>.

Military leave changes benefit federal employees

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. – Federal employees who are also reservists stand to benefit from three significant changes to the military leave system.

A recent review of a comptroller general decision, in conjunction with the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, prompted the changes.

Under one change, employees can opt to receive pay for roughly 15 days military leave beginning with the second year and for each subsequent year if they remain in leave without pay status while serving on an extended active-duty tour. The tour must span two or more fiscal years to qualify for the payment.

Another change allows employees on an active-duty tour that spans no more than two fiscal years to wait until later in the fiscal year to use their new allotment of military leave if they are on the active-duty tour on Oct. 1.

The third change permits employees to keep their military leave for intervening non-workdays if military leave is not used at all during a tour of duty. This change affects all employees who are also members of the Selected Reserve – unit reservists, air reserve technicians and individual mobilization augmentees.

Under the first modification, where active duty spans two or more fiscal years, reservists and former federal employers basically execute a paper exercise involving Standard Form 52. The reservists are brought back on civilian pay status on Oct. 1 and are returned to leave without pay status on Oct. 16, said Keith.

The second modification involves reservists on active-duty tours that span no more than two fiscal years, Sept. 15 to Oct. 15, for example.

These federal employees are not required to use the new allotment of military leave, which begins Oct. 1, for that tour. Instead, they may choose to use it later in the fiscal year.

Under the third change, an employee can now intermingle different types of leave – annual, leave without pay, compensatory time or credit hours – during an active-duty tour or consecutive tours and not be charged military leave for any intervening non-workdays during the tour, as long as they use no military leave during that period.

The civilian work force division at Headquarters AFRC can be reached by calling DSN 497-1324 or toll free (800) 223-1784, Ext. 71324. (AFRC News Service)

Contact Magazine feedback survey

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Use this scale for your answers:

1-Strongly Agree; 2-Agree; 3-No Opinion; 4-Disagree; 5-Strongly Disagree

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I rely on the *Contact* as my primary source for Air Force Reserve news

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The articles in the *Contact* are easy to read

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SEPTEMBER 1, 1998**

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Steve A. Rotondo
Ernest F. Zamora

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Walter G. Witkowski

Master Sergeant

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